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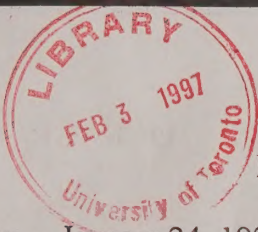
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**Nuclear Fuel Waste Environmental
Assessment Panel (Canada)**

News Release

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EP155
-N28

News Release



DEADLINE FOR CLOSING STATEMENTS FOR NUCLEAR FUEL WASTE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL CONCEPT REVIEW

Ottawa -- January 24, 1997 -- Phase III hearings will conclude in Ottawa on March 27, 1997. Since this review is not site specific, it is not feasible for the panel to hear closing statements in one location as is customary in other hearings. The panel has therefore decided to amend its hearings procedures to allow the submission of **brief** written statements (two to three pages) in which participants, who made presentations at the hearings, will either:

- summarize their previously expressed views on the safety and acceptability of the proposed concept for disposal of nuclear fuel waste in deep geological formations of the Canadian Shield; or
- indicate a change in their views in the light of information received in the course of the hearings.

Since the purpose of closing statements in public hearings is to summarize participants' positions, new information is not accepted and questioning of these statements does not occur.

Anyone who participated at the hearings can submit a brief closing statement in writing. It should be received at the address below no later than April 18, 1997.

For additional information, please contact:

Ghislaine Kerry
Information Officer
Panel Secretariat
Nuclear Fuel Waste Management
and Disposal Concept Review
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0H3

Guy Riverin
Executive Secretary
Panel Secretariat
Nuclear Fuel Waste Management
and Disposal Concept Review
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0H3

Telephone: (819) 953-0179 (collect)
Fax: (819) 994-1469
Internet: Kerryg@fox.nstn.ca

Telephone: (819) 997-2244 (collect)
Fax: (819) 994-1469
Internet: Rivering@fox.nstn.ca



Communiqué

ÉCHÉANCIER POUR REMARQUES DE CLÔTURE DANS LE CADRE DE L'EXAMEN DU CONCEPT DE GESTION ET DE STOCKAGE DES DÉCHETS DE COMBUSTIBLE NUCLÉAIRE

Ottawa -- Le 24 janvier 1997 -- La phase III des audiences publiques se terminera à Ottawa le 27 mars 1997. Comme il ne s'agit pas d'un examen concernant un projet proposé pour une région particulière, il ne sera pas possible pour la commission de recevoir les remarques de clôture des participants dans un endroit particulier comme c'est la coutume lors d'autres audiences. Alors, la commission a décidé de modifier ses procédures d'examen publique afin de permettre à ceux qui ont participé aux audiences publiques de soumettre en écrit un texte **bref** (deux ou trois pages) dans lequel:

- ils résumeront la position énoncée lors des audiences concernant la sécurité et l'acceptabilité du concept proposé pour le stockage de déchets de combustible nucléaire dans des couches géologiques profondes du Bouclier canadien; ou
- ils indiqueront un changement quant à la position énoncée précédemment en raison d'informations reçues au cours des audiences.

Comme l'objet des remarques de clôture dans le cadre d'audiences publiques est de permettre aux participants de résumer leur position concernant le projet assujetti à l'examen, des informations nouvelles ne sont pas acceptées et il n'y a aucun questionnement de permis concernant ces énoncés.

Toute personne ayant participé aux audiences de cette commission peut soumettre en écrit de brèves remarques de clôture. Elles devront être reçues à l'adresse sous-mentionnée au plus tard le 18 avril 1997.

Pour renseignements additionnels, veuillez communiquer avec:

Ghislaine Kerry
Agente d'information
Secrétariat de la commission
Examen du concept de gestion et de stockage
des déchets de combustible nucléaire
Agence canadienne d'évaluation environnementale
200, boulevard Sacré-Coeur
Hull (Québec) K1A 0H3
Téléphone : (819) 953-0179 (frais virés)
Télécopieur : (819) 994-1469
Internet : Kerryg@fox.nstn.ca

Guy Riverin
Secrétaire exécutif
Secrétariat de la commission
Examen du concept de gestion et de stockage
des déchets de combustible nucléaire
Agence canadienne d'évaluation environnementale
200, boulevard Sacré-Coeur
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Téléphone : (819) 997-2244 (frais virés)
Télécopieur : (819) 994-1469
Internet : Rivering@fox.nstn.ca



CAI
EP 155
-N28

News Release

PHASE III PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULE FOR NUCLEAR FUEL WASTE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL CONCEPT ANNOUNCED

OTTAWA - November 1, 1996 - Phase III public hearings to review Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's (AECL) proposed nuclear fuel waste management and disposal concept are scheduled to begin in Saskatoon on January 13, 1997. The federal environmental assessment panel reviewing the waste management and disposal concept today released a detailed schedule for these hearings.

Phase III hearings consist of community visits in New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan where participants will have a final opportunity to provide their opinions and views on the safety and acceptability of the concept for disposal of nuclear fuel waste and any other issues relevant to the panel's mandate. Members of the public and groups are encouraged to participate by addressing the panel, asking questions of the proponent, making a written submission, and/or observing the proceedings. Anyone wishing to address the panel is encouraged to contact the panel's secretariat. The details of AECL's concept can be found in the October 1994 Environmental Impact Statement and the nine supporting reference documents prepared by AECL.

In each community, the hearings will begin with a detailed presentation on the concept by the proponent, followed by a one hour question and answer period. Presentations by the public to the panel will follow. All participants are urged to keep their oral presentations to 10 minutes in order to permit more time for questions and answers.

In October 1996, two reports were received by the Panel. The first one, entitled "A Comparison Of How Nuclear And Non-Nuclear Wastes Are Managed And Disposed", was prepared by Oakhill Environmental for the Panel. The second report, entitled "Summary of Proceedings of Technical Hearings", was prepared by Anne Wiles for the panel secretariat. Anyone wishing to comment on these reports can do so by writing the Panel.

- 30 -

For a copy of the reports and further information:

Ghislaine Kerry
Information Officer
Panel Secretariat
Nuclear Fuel Waste Management
and Disposal Concept Review
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0H3

Telephone: (819) 953-0179 (collect)
Fax: (819) 994-1469
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Guy Riverin
Executive Secretary
Panel Secretariat
Nuclear Fuel Waste Management
and Disposal Concept Review
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0H3

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Fax: (819) 994-1469
Internet: Rivering@fox.nstn.ca



The detailed Phase III schedule can be found on the Internet at the Canadian Environmental Assessment site: <http://www.ceaa.gc.ca>

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PHASE III SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE - JANUARY 13 - 17, 1997

Location: Ramada Hotel Saskatoon
Commonwealth Ballroom
90-22nd Street East
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

DATE	SESSIONS
Monday	14:00 - 17:00
January 13, 1997	19:00 - 22:00
Tuesday	9:00 - 12:00
January 14, 1997	14:00 - 17:00

Location: Sagkeeng First Nation
Multiplex Arena
Highway 11, Manitoba

DATE	SESSIONS
Thursday	10:00 - 18:00
January 16, 1997	

WEEK TWO - JANUARY 27 - 31, 1997

Location: Hotel Fort Garry
The Club
222 Broadway Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba

DATE	SESSIONS
Monday	14:00 - 17:00
January 27, 1997	19:00 - 22:00
Tuesday	9:00 - 12:00
January 28, 1997	14:00 - 17:00

Location: The Valhalla Hotel
Scanbia Room
1 Valhalla Inn Road
Thunder Bay, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS
Wednesday	14:00 - 17:00
January 29, 1997	19:00 - 22:00

Location: Ginoogaming First Nation
The Ginoogaming Complex
101 Poplar Cresc.
Longlac, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS
Thursday	10:30 - 18:00
January 30, 1997	

Location: Royal Canadian Legion Hall
O'Brien Street
Atikokan, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS
Friday	13:00 - 17:00
January 31, 1997	19:00 - 21:00

WEEK THREE - FEBRUARY 10 - 14, 1997

Location: The Porcupine Dante Club
Main Hall
172 Cedar Street South
Timmins, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS
Monday February 10, 1997	14:00 - 17:00 19:00 - 22:00

Location: Howard Johnson Hotel
Empress Ball Room
425 Fraser Street
North Bay, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS
Tuesday February 11, 1997	14:00 - 17:00 19:00 - 22:00

Location: Serpent River First Nation
Cutler Community Centre
Serpent River, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS
Thursday February 13, 1997	10:30 - 20:00

WEEK FOUR - FEBRUARY 24 - 28, 1997

Location: Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 340
630 Green Street
Port Elgin, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS
Monday February 24, 1997	14:00 - 17:00 19:00 - 22:00

Location: Toronto
4900 Yonge Street
3rd Floor Auditorium
Toronto, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS
Tuesday February 25, 1997	19:00 - 22:00
Wednesday February 26, 1997	9:00 - 12:00 14:00 - 17:00

Location: Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 43
471 Simcoe Street South
Oshawa, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS
Thursday February 27, 1997	14:00 - 17:00 19:00 - 22:00

WEEK FIVE - MARCH 10 - 14, 1997

Location: Saint John Trade and Convention Centre
 Loyalist Room
 1 Market Square
 Saint John, New Brunswick

DATE	SESSIONS
Monday	14:00 - 17:00
March 10, 1997	19:00 - 22:00
Tuesday	9:00 - 12:00
March 11, 1997	

Location: Pavillon Jacques Cartier
 Salle Grande Hermine
 Parc de l'île St-Quentin
 Trois Rivières (Québec)

DATE	SESSIONS
Thursday	14:00 - 17:00
March 13, 1997	19:00 - 22:00

WEEK SIX - MARCH 24 - 27, 1997

Location: Le Nouvel Hôtel Montréal
 Salle Saint-Mathieu
 1740 boul. René-Lévesque ouest
 Montréal (Québec)

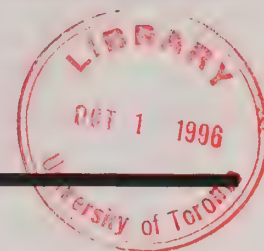
DATE	SESSIONS
Monday	14:00 - 17:00
March 24, 1997	19:00 - 22:00
Tuesday	9:00 - 12:00
March 25, 1997	14:00 - 17:00

Location: Royal Canadian Legion
 330 Kent Street
 Ottawa, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS
Wednesday	14:00 - 17:00
March 26, 1997	19:00 - 22:00
Thursday	9:00 - 12:00
March 27, 1997	14:00 - 16:00

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News Release



PHASE II PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR NUCLEAR FUEL WASTE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL CONCEPT RESUME

Ottawa -- September 25, 1996 -- Phase II public hearings to review Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's (AECL) proposed nuclear fuel waste management and disposal concept are scheduled to resume in Toronto from November 18 - 21, 1996. The federal environmental assessment panel reviewing the waste management and disposal concept today released a detailed schedule for these hearings. The hearings will permit discussion of new information submitted or referenced by AECL either in the *Response to Request for Information* (May 1996) or during the earlier Phase II hearings held in June. In particular, the panel is seeking participants' views on whether or not they wish to supplement or modify their previous assessments of the safety and scientific acceptability of the concept based on this new information.

The format for this session will consist of detailed presentations by the proponent on each topic the first session of each day, followed by a question and answer period. Presentations by the public to the panel will be scheduled for the second session of each day. The list of scheduled topics is attached, along with corresponding questions to guide the presentations and discussions.

Anyone wishing to address the panel during these public hearings should register with the panel's secretariat using the attached coupon no later than November 1, 1996. Participants who register after that date will be added to the schedule if time permits. All participants are urged to keep their oral presentations to 5-10 minutes in order to permit more time for questions and answers. Observers are not required to register.

Participants are encouraged to provide written submissions by November 1, 1996. This will allow the panel and other participants the opportunity to review the information and to prepare questions. Full transcripts of all sessions will be made available.

On September 16, 1996, the panel's Scientific Review Group (SRG) released an Addendum to supplement its October 6, 1995 report. The Addendum, prepared at the request of the panel, provides the SRG's overall integrated assessment of the AECL concept as further outlined and documented by the new information made available by AECL following the release of the Environmental Impact Statement in 1994. Copies of the SRG Addendum are available from the secretariat.

Phase III hearings, scheduled to begin in mid-January 1997, will consist of community visits in New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan where participants will have an opportunity to provide their final opinions and views on the safety and acceptability of the concept for disposal of nuclear fuel waste including any other issues relevant to the panel's mandate. The schedule will be announced at a later date.



Ghislaine Kerry
Information Officer
Panel Secretariat
Nuclear Fuel Waste Management
and Disposal Concept Review
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0H3

Telephone: (819) 953-0179 (collect)
Fax: (819) 994-1469
Internet: Kerryg@fox.nstn.ca

Guy Riverin
Executive Secretary
Panel Secretariat
Nuclear Fuel Waste Management
and Disposal Concept Review
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0H3

Telephone: (819) 997-2244 (collect)
Fax: (819) 994-1469
Internet: Rivering@fox.nstn.ca

(Aussi disponible en français)

SCHEDULE

Location: The St. Lawrence Hall
The Great Hall
157 King Street East
3rd Floor
Toronto, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS	TOPICS DISCUSSED
Monday November 18, 1996	14:00 - 17:30 - presentation by proponent 19:00 - 22:00	Technical Session - Multiple Barrier Disposal Concept: components, options, flexibility, robustness; Has AECL provided sufficient evidence to support the feasibility of the generic concept?
Tuesday November 19, 1996	09:00 - 12:00 - presentation by proponent 13:30 - 17:30	Technical Session - Postclosure Assessment: suitability and flexibility of the methodology; acceptability; How should the postclosure safety of a generic concept be assessed, and was this done?
Wednesday November 20, 1996	09:00 - 12:00 - presentation by proponent 13:30 - 17:30	Technical Session - Preclosure Assessment: reference design, methodology, and impacts Has sufficient information on preclosure assessment and potential impacts been provided?
Thursday November 21, 1996	09:00 - 12:00 - presentation by proponent 13:30 - 17:30	General Technical Session with a Presentation on Long-term Storage

REGISTRATION COUPON / COUPON D'INSCRIPTION

Please return this coupon to the Panel Secretariat before November 1, 1996.

Veuillez retourner ce coupon réponse au secrétariat de la commission au plus tard le 1^{er} novembre 1996.

I wish to register to make a presentation at the following session:

Je désire m'inscrire pour prendre la parole à la séance suivante:

Date _____ Location/Lieu _____ Session/Séance _____

Name/Nom _____

Organization/Organisme _____

Address/Adresse _____

Postal Code/Code postal _____ Telephone/Téléphone _____

Correspondence in English

CAI
EP155
-N28

News Release

PHASE II PUBLIC HEARINGS EXTENDED FOR REVIEW OF NUCLEAR FUEL WASTE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL CONCEPT

Ottawa -- July 18, 1996 --The panel reviewing Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's (AECL) proposed nuclear fuel waste management and disposal concept has extended the Phase II public hearings in Toronto by four days from November 18-21. This extension will permit discussion of new information submitted or referenced by AECL either in the *Response to Request for Information* (May 1996) or during the earlier Phase II hearings this June. This extension will delay the commencement of Phase III hearings from September 1996 to mid-January 1997.

The extension is being scheduled for November, to permit participants, including the panel's Scientific Review Group (SRG), sufficient time to examine in depth the additional information. A list of documents being reviewed can be obtained from the secretariat at the address below. Anyone wishing a copy of certain documents on that list will be able to request them by using an order coupon included with the list.

Participants are invited to submit a technical review of this information by September 17, if possible, or by November 1 at the latest. This invitation applies in particular if the additional information changes any of the participants' previous assessments of the safety and scientific acceptability of the concept. The above-mentioned deadlines will give the panel adequate time to reproduce copies of the technical reviews and make them available to participants in advance of the extended hearings.

These additional sessions will be conducted in a manner similar to those held in June. The location and topics will be announced later. Persons wishing to register as speakers are requested to do so no later than November 1, 1996.

Information on the disposal concept can be found in the October 1994 Environmental Impact Statement prepared by AECL, the nine supporting reference documents, and in AECL's May 9, 1996 response to the panel's December 1995 request for additional information.

Phase III community hearings will now take place between mid-January 1997 and March 31, 1997. Details will be announced later.



To obtain a list of documents being reviewed please call either of the following:

Ghislaine Kerry
Information Officer
Panel Secretariat
Nuclear Fuel Waste Management
and Disposal Concept Review
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0H3

Telephone: (819) 997-1000 (collect)
Fax: (819) 994-1469
Internet: Kerryg@fox.nstn.ca

Guy Riverin
Executive Secretary
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Nuclear Fuel Waste Management
and Disposal Concept Review
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0H3

Telephone: (819) 997-1000 (collect)
Fax: (819) 994-1469
Internet: Rivering@fox.nstn.ca

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-N28

News Release

PHASE III PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULE FOR NUCLEAR FUEL WASTE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL CONCEPT ANNOUNCED

Ottawa -- June 6, 1996 -- Phase III public hearings to review Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's (AECL) proposed nuclear fuel waste management and disposal concept are scheduled to begin in Winnipeg on September 23, 1996. The federal environmental assessment panel reviewing the waste management and disposal concept today released a detailed schedule for these hearings.

Phase III hearings consists of community visits in New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan where participants will have an opportunity to provide their final opinions and views on the safety and acceptability of the concept for disposal of nuclear fuel waste including any other issues relevant to the panel's mandate. Anyone wishing to address the panel during Phase III of the public hearings is encouraged to contact the panel's secretariat. The details of this concept can be found in the October 1994 Environmental Impact Statement prepared by AECL, and the nine supporting reference documents.

In April 1996, the panel received a report entitled Participants' Views on Broad Society Issues Related to Nuclear Fuel Waste Management. The report was prepared by Ann Wiles for the panel secretariat and consists of a synthesis of the first two weeks of Phase I hearings held in Toronto March 11-15 and March 25-29, 1996.

- 30 -

For a copy of the report and further information:

Ghislaine Kerry
Information Officer
Panel Secretariat
Nuclear Fuel Waste Management
and Disposal Concept Review
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0H3

Telephone: (819) 953-0179 (collect)
Fax: (819) 994-1469
Internet: Kerryg@fox.nstn.ca

Guy Riverin
Executive Secretary
Panel Secretariat
Nuclear Fuel Waste Management
and Disposal Concept Review
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0H3

Telephone: (819) 997-2244 (collect)
Fax: (819) 994-1469
Internet: Rivering@fox.nstn.ca



The detailed Phase III schedule can be found on the Internet at the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency site: <http://www.ceaa.gc.ca>
(Aussi disponible en français)



PHASE III SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE - SEPTEMBER 23-27, 1996

Location: The Centennial Library
251 Donald Street
2nd Floor Auditorium
Winnipeg, Manitoba

DATE	SESSIONS	
Monday September 23, 1996	13:00 - 17:00 19:00 - 21:00	
Tuesday September 24, 1996	10:00 - 12:30 14:00 - 18:00	

Location: The Valhalla Hotel
Scanbia Room
1 Valhalla Inn Road
Thunder Bay, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS	
Wednesday September 25, 1996	14:00 - 17:00 19:00 - 22:00	

Location: Nishnawbe-Aski Nation
(Location to be determined and announced)

DATE	SESSIONS	
Thursday September 26, 1996	10:30 - 20:00	

WEEK TWO - OCTOBER 7-11, 1996

Location: The Porcupine Dante Club
Main Hall
172 Cedar Street South
Timmins, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS	
Monday October 7, 1996	14:00 - 17:00 19:00 - 22:00	

Location: Howard Johnson Hotel
Empress Ball Room
425 Fraser Street
North Bay, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS	
Tuesday October 8, 1996	14:00 - 17:00 19:00 - 22:00	

Location: Serpent River First Nation
Cutler Community Centre
Serpent River, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS	
Thursday October 10, 1996	10:30 - 20:00	

WEEK THREE - OCTOBER 21-25, 1996

Location: Ramada Hotel Saskatoon
Commonwealth Ballroom
90-22nd Street East
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

DATE	SESSIONS	
Monday October 21, 1996	14:00 - 17:00 19:00 - 22:00	
Tuesday October 22, 1996	14:00 - 17:00 19:00 - 22:00	

Location: Sagkeeng First Nation
(Location to be determined and announced)

DATE	SESSIONS	
Thursday October 24, 1996	10:30 - 20:00	

WEEK FOUR - NOVEMBER 4-8, 1996

Location: New Brunswick Museum at Market Square
Gallery 4, 2nd Floor
St. John, New Brunswick

DATE	SESSIONS	
Monday November 4, 1996	14:00 - 17:00 19:00 - 22:00	
Tuesday November 5, 1996	09:00 - 12:00	

Location: Pavillon Jacques Cartier
Salle Grande Hermine
Parc de l'île St-Quentin
Trois Rivières (Québec)

DATE	SESSIONS	
Wednesday November 6, 1996	14:00 - 17:00 19:00 - 22:00	

Location: Le Nouvel hôtel Montréal
Salle Saint-Mathieu
1740, boul. René-Lévesque ouest
Montréal (Québec)

DATE	SESSIONS	
Thursday November 7, 1996	14:00 - 17:00 19:00 - 22:00	
Friday November 8, 1996	09:00 - 12:00 14:00 - 17:00	

WEEK FIVE - NOVEMBER 18-22, 1996

Location: Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 340
630 Green Street
Port Elgin, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS	
Monday November 18, 1996	14:00 - 17:00 19:00 - 22:00	

Location: The St. Lawrence Hall
The Great Hall
157 King Street East
3rd Floor
Toronto, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS	
Tuesday November 19, 1996	14:00 - 17:00 19:00 - 22:00	
Wednesday November 20, 1996	09:00 - 12:00 14:00 - 17:00	

Location: Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 43
471 Simcoe Street South
Oshawa, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS	
Thursday November 21, 1996	14:00 - 17:00 19:00 - 22:00	

WEEK SIX - DECEMBER 2-6, 1996

Location: Royal Canadian Legion
 330 Kent Street
 Ottawa, Ontario

DATE		SESSIONS	
Monday December 2, 1996	14:00 - 17:00		
	19:00 - 22:00		
Tuesday December 3, 1996	09:00 - 12:00		
	14:00 - 17:00		

CA1
EP/55
-N28

News Release

NEW MEMBER APPOINTED TO THE PANEL REVIEWING THE NUCLEAR FUEL WASTE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL CONCEPT

Ottawa, May 29, 1996 -- Mr. Blair Seaborn, chairperson of the panel reviewing the concept for disposing of used nuclear fuel deep within the hard rock of the Canadian Shield, is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Dougal McCreath to the panel. Dr. McCreath replaces Dr. William Fyfe who resigned at the end of April 1996.

Dr. McCreath has 25 years of experience in the solution of geotechnical engineering problems in civil and mining projects. He has written numerous papers dealing with rock support in mining and underground construction, one of the major components of the concept being proposed by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited. Dr. McCreath is also a member of the environmental assessment panel reviewing the decommissioning plans for four mines in Elliot Lake.

For further information:

Ghislaine Kerry
Information Officer
Panel Secretariat
Nuclear Fuel Waste Management
and Disposal Concept Review
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0H3

Telephone: (819) 953-0179 (collect)
Fax: (819) 994-1469
Internet: Kerryg@fox.nstn.ca

Guy Riverin
Executive Secretary
Panel Secretariat
Nuclear Fuel Waste Management
and Disposal Concept Review
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd
Hull, Quebec
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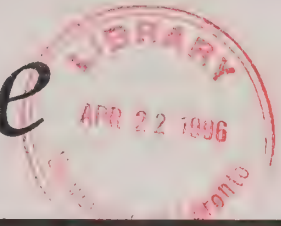


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News Release



PHASE II PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULE FOR NUCLEAR FUEL WASTE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL CONCEPT ANNOUNCED

Ottawa -- April 15, 1996 -- Phase II public hearings to review Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's (AECL) proposed nuclear fuel waste management and disposal concept are scheduled to be held in Toronto in June, 1996. The federal environmental assessment panel reviewing the waste management and disposal concept today released a detailed schedule for these hearings. The details of this concept can be found in the October 1994 Environmental Impact Statement prepared by AECL, and the nine supporting reference documents. Additional information requested of AECL is to be submitted to the panel by May 10, 1996 and will be publicly available.

The first two weeks of Phase II hearings, to take place in Toronto from June 10-14 and 17-21, 1996 will consist of technical sessions focusing on the long-term safety (the post-closure period) of the Atomic Energy of Canada Limited concept of geologic disposal from scientific and engineering viewpoints.

An extra period of two days, to take place on June 27-28, also in Toronto, has been added to Phase II to address the environmental, health, and social impact issues specific to the pre-closure period of the proposed disposal facility.

The format for all sessions in Phase II will consist of detailed presentations by the proponent on each topic for morning sessions, followed by a question and answer period. The list of scheduled topics is attached. Presentations by the public to the panel will be scheduled for the afternoon sessions. Phase III public hearings in the autumn of 1996 will provide a further opportunity to address both pre-closure and post-closure questions, relating to the proposed disposal facility.

Anyone wishing to address the panel during Phase II of the public hearings should register with the panel's secretariat no later than June 3, 1996. Participants who register after that date will be added to the schedule if time permits.

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Participants are encouraged to provide written submissions by May 27, 1996 for Phase II of the hearings. This will allow the panel and other participants the opportunity to review the information and prepare any questions. Full transcripts of all sessions will be made available.

The last week of Phase I hearings will be held in Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Serpent River and Chalk River from April 29 - May 3, 1996. The round-tables scheduled for that week have been replaced with presentations to the panel, in order to accommodate all those wishing to make presentations.

Phase III hearings will consist of community visits in New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan where participants will have an opportunity to provide their final opinions and views on the safety and acceptability of the concept for disposal of nuclear fuel waste including any other issues relevant to the panel's mandate. The schedule will be announced at a later date.

To register for any session of the Phase II hearings, please complete the attached coupon. All participants are urged to keep their oral presentations to 5-10 minutes in order to permit more time for questions and answers.

Ghislaine Kerry
Information Officer
Panel Secretariat
Nuclear Fuel Waste Management
and Disposal Concept Review
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0H3

Telephone: (819) 953-0179 (collect)
Fax: (819) 994-1469
Internet: Kerryg@fox.nstn.ca

Guy Riverin
Executive Secretary
Panel Secretariat
Nuclear Fuel Waste Management
and Disposal Concept Review
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0H3

Telephone: (819) 997-2244 (collect)
Fax: (819) 994-1469
Internet: Rivering@fox.nstn.ca

(Aussi disponible en français)

PHASE II SCHEDULE

Location: 3rd Floor Auditorium, 4900 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS	TOPICS DISCUSSED
Monday June 10, 1996	10:00 - 12:30 - presentation by proponent 14:00 - 17:30	Opening Session/ Technical aspects of site characterization and site availability
Tuesday June 11, 1996	09:00 - 12:00 - presentation by proponent 13:30 - 17:30	General Session with emphasis on the multiple barrier system
Wednesday June 12, 1996	09:00 - 12:00 - presentation by proponent 13:30 - 17:30	Technical Session - Disposal container and nuclear fuel waste form
Thursday June 13, 1996	09:00 - 12:00 - presentation by proponent 13:30 - 17:30	Technical Session - Disposal vault environment
Friday June 14, 1996	09:00 - 12:00 - presentation by proponent 13:30 - 17:00	Technical Session - Enclosing rock mass or geosphere

DATE	SESSIONS	TOPICS DISCUSSED
Monday June 17, 1996	10:00 - 12:30 - presentation by proponent 14:00 - 17:30	Technical Session - Surface environment and biosphere
Tuesday June 18, 1996	09:00 - 12:00 - presentation by proponent 13:30 - 17:30	Technical Session - Performance assessment criteria, risk and uncertainty
Wednesday June 19, 1996	09:00 - 12:00 - presentation by proponent 13:30 - 17:30	Technical Session - Performance assessment and modelling; analogs
Thursday June 20, 1996	09:00 - 12:00 - presentation by proponent 13:30 - 17:30	General Session
Friday June 21, 1996	09:00 - 12:00 - presentation by proponent 13:30 - 17:00	General Session

Location: Metropolitan Toronto Public Library
Elizabeth Beeton Auditorium, 789 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS	TOPICS DISCUSSED
Thursday June 27, 1996	10:00 - 13:00 - presentation by proponent 14:00 - 18:00	Environmental and Health Impacts of Disposal Facility - Exploration, construction, operation, transport, closure, decommissioning
Friday June 28, 1996	10:00 - 13:00 - presentation by proponent 14:00 - 16:00	Socio-economic Impacts of Disposal Facility - Exploration, construction, operation, transport, closure, decommissioning

REPLY COUPON / COUPON RÉPONSE

For Phase II, please return this coupon to the Panel Secretariat before June 3, 1996.

Pour la deuxième phase, veuillez retourner ce coupon réponse au secrétariat de la commission au plus tard le 3 juin 1996.

I will attend the following session:

J'ai l'intention de participer à la session suivante:

Date _____ Location/Lieu _____ Session/Séance _____

I wish to register to make a presentation at the following session:

Je désire m'inscrire pour prendre la parole à la séance suivante:

Date _____ Location/Lieu _____ Session/Séance _____

Name/Nom _____

Organization/Organisme _____

Address/Adresse _____

Postal Code/Code postal _____

Telephone/Téléphone _____

Correspondence in English _____

Correspondance en français _____

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News Release

PANEL RELEASES LIST OF INVITED SPEAKERS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS ON BROAD SOCIETAL ISSUES

Ottawa -- February 27, 1996 -- The environmental assessment panel reviewing the proposed concept for management and disposal of nuclear fuel wastes has invited a number of speakers to participate in Phase 1 of the hearings which will start on March 11.

The first two weeks of Phase I hearings are dedicated to the examination and discussion of a range of broad societal issues. A separate topic is scheduled each day. Each day will begin with presentations from registered participants on the day's topic and will conclude with roundtable discussions among registered participants and others attending the session.

To facilitate the roundtable discussions, the panel has invited a number of speakers to make short presentations, giving a general overview of the topic and raising points for discussion. The invited speakers will not present a position on nuclear waste management to the panel. Rather, their role will be to provide hearing participants with an analysis of the issue and identify important concerns; some speakers may review case studies or describe the range of options available for consideration. The individuals who have been invited are knowledgeable about the subject through their work as researcher or consultant, but have not been active as advocates of a particular approach to nuclear waste management.

In addition, two speakers from Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/ Nuclear Energy Agency and the Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company (SKB) have been invited to share their experience with nuclear waste management programs in Sweden and elsewhere in the world.



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A list of invited speakers including short biographies is attached.

For further information, please contact:

Ghislaine Kerry
Information Officer
Panel Secretariat
Nuclear Fuel Waste Management
and Disposal Concept Review
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd.
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0H3

Telephone: (819) 953-0179 (collect)
Fax: (819) 994-1469
Internet: Kerryg@fox.nstn.ca

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Telephone: (819) 997-2244 (collect)
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(Aussi disponible en français)

BIOGRAPHIES OF INVITED SPEAKERS

Week 1: Risk and Ethics Issues Related to the Management of High-Level Nuclear Waste Disposal

Monday, March 11: Background

Claes Thegerström, director, Deep Repository Division, Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company (SKB). Studied Engineering Physics, Nuclear Physics and Environmental Sciences at Lund University and Institute of Technology. Twenty years professional experience in the areas of radioactive waste management, safety assessment and environmental protection. Worked with Studsvik Research Centre 1974-82, Eurochemic Reprocessory Plant, Belgium, 1976-77, SKB 1982-86, OECD/Nuclear Energy Agency in Paris 1986-91 International Cooperation on Assessment of long term safety of radwaste management. Since 1992, responsible at SKB for siting and technical planning of a deep repository in Sweden.

Tuesday, March 12: Ethical Considerations of the Management of Long-Term Nuclear Wastes: Aboriginal Perspectives

Andrew Brook, professor of philosophy at Carleton University, and the Director of the university's Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies. Dr. Brook has written on environmental ethics and the moral and ethical aspects of nuclear energy, and has consulted on the ethics of environmental and nuclear issues for the Privy Council of Canada, the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ontario, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, the Atomic Energy Control Board, Ontario Hydro and the University of Ottawa.

Peter Miller, professor of Philosophy at the University of Winnipeg and an Adjunct Professor at the Natural Resources Institute of the University of Manitoba. Dr. Miller is currently working in the areas of environmental ethics, value theory, applied ethics, recycling and forest policy and sustainable development theory. He is treasurer of the International Society for Environmental Ethics, and editor of the Canadian Society for the Study of Practical Ethics Newsletter. Dr. Miller has taught in Canada, the United States and Africa.

Keith Conn, director of the Environment, Assembly of First Nations, responsible for policy, research and development of national strategies for environmental protection, and the advancement of treaty and aboriginal rights in relation to land and natural resources. He has undertaken analyses of legislation and government policy as they affect Aboriginal and treaty rights, and has developed strategies to encourage community-based sustainable development supporting traditional economies. Mr. Conn has served as advisor with the Canadian International Development Agency and the Canadian Whitehorse Mining Initiative and is involved with mapping Ye'kuana ancestral lands in Venezuela.

Wednesday, March 13: Risk and Uncertainty

Conrad G. Brunk, associate professor of Philosophy at Conrad Grebel College, University of Waterloo. His areas of specialization include environmental ethics, bio-medical ethics and ethics in engineering and technology; social and political philosophy; and conflict analysis and resolution. He has written many articles on philosophical and ethical aspects of risk and is a co-author of Value Assumptions in Risk Assessment: the Alachlor Controversy (Wilfrid Laurier Press). Dr. Brunk was a founding member of the Board of Community Mediation Service in Kitchener, Ontario and is currently a member of the Ethics Committee at the Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital in Kitchener, Ontario.

John Buschek, chemist, lecturer in technology assessment and environmental pollutants in Carleton University's Technology, Society and the Environment program, and on environmental issues and ethics at Algonquin College. He has been a part-time member of the Environmental Appeal Board of Ontario since 1992. Dr. Buschek has carried out chemical research for the Canadian Coast Guard, Greenpeace, Environment Canada, Carleton University and the University of Ottawa and for other universities in Canada, the United States and Germany. Dr. Buschek has published many scholarly papers on chemistry and is also a published poet.

Neils Lind, adjunct professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Victoria, former director of the Institute for Risk Research at the University of Waterloo, and a member of the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Safety for the Atomic Energy Control Board. His research interests include engineering reliability and risk analysis, and the modelling of uncertainty in engineered systems. Dr. Lind is a member of the Canadian Academy of Engineering and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He has been involved with the present review of nuclear waste disposal as a member of the Scientific Review Group which advised the environmental review panel on technical matters related to the waste disposal concept.

Thursday, March 14: Risk, Costs and Benefit

James Flynn, senior research associate with Decision Research in Eugen, Oregon. His fields of specialization include socioeconomic impact assessment, survey research, and judgement and decision making. Dr. Flynn is currently engaged in research on socioeconomic aspects of the proposed high-level nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada and on public attitudes toward nuclear power. He has published many scholarly articles on risk perception, risk communication and risk management policy and has consulted for government agencies in the United States and Canada.

Neils Lind (Please see biographical note above)

Friday, March 15:

Criteria for the Acceptability of the Waste Disposal Concept

William Leiss, Eco-Research chair in Environmental Policy in the School of Policy Studies at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, on leave from his position as professor of Communication at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. Dr. Leiss has consulted with industry and federal and provincial governments on issues of risk communication, risk management and public consultation. He is the author of many articles and books, most recently co-author of Risk and Responsibility (with Christina Chochiolko; McGill-Queen's). Dr. Leiss is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Stella Swanson, associate and senior scientist with Golder Associates, an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Biology at the University of Saskatchewan and a Research Associate at the Toxicology Research Centre at the University of Saskatchewan. Her research interests include the pathways analysis and risk assessment of radionuclides, metals and chlorinated organics in the biosphere. Dr. Swanson was a member of the Scientific Review Group engaged to advise the review panel on technical aspects of the waste disposal concept.

Week 2: Practical Issues Related to High-Level Nuclear Waste Management

Monday, March 25: Background, Case Studies

Jean-Pierre Olivier, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Nuclear Energy Agency, a chemist with more than 30 years experience in radiation protection, nuclear safety and radioactive waste management. He obtained his "licence ès Science" at the University of Clermont-Ferrand, France, in 1961, followed by post-graduate courses in nuclear metallurgy at the French National Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology, at Saclay. He joined the Nuclear Energy Agency of the OECD in 1964 and, since the early 70s, he has been at the centre of most of the NEA activities in the field of radioactive waste management, including the setting-up of the Radioactive Waste Management Committee in 1975. During this period, he was successively Deputy Head of the NEA Nuclear Safety Division (1979-1981) and Head of the Radiation Protection and Waste Management Division (since 1981). In this latter capacity, he has organised all the international peer reviews carried out so far by NEA, sometimes in cooperation with the Commission of the European Communities. He has been a member of many national and international expert groups and he is currently a member of the French governmental Commission in charge of the evaluation of the French Radioactive Waste Management Programme.

Graham Latonas, director, Environmental Affairs with Chem-Security (Alberta) Ltd. (CSAL), operator of the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre located near Swan Hills Alberta. He joined CSAL in 1991 and participated in the development of regulatory applications and Environmental Assessments for the expansion of the Treatment Centre in 1991 and acceptance of extra-provincial waste in 1994. His responsibilities include overall environmental management of Treatment Centre activities and liaison with communities and interested stakeholders.

Mr. Latonas was previously Manager, Environmental Services for the Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation (MHWMC) from 1988 to 1991. He authored two key discussion documents on site selection and siting criteria for the MHWMC and was directly involved in the site selection process. These documents helped guide the MHWMC's site selection activities which culminated in the successful acquisition of a site in the Rural Municipality of Montcalm.

Mr. Latonas has previous experience as an environmental consultant in Alberta where he participated in numerous environmental impact assessment, site selection and environmental monitoring studies.

Tuesday, March 26: Siting Facilities, Siting Criteria

Barry Rabe, professor of Health Politics at the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. His research interest is in policy comparisons among U.S. states and Canadian provinces, including the policy and politics of pollution prevention in Canada and the United States. Dr. Rabe is the author of Beyond NIMBY: Hazardous Waste Siting in Canada and the United States (1994, Brookings Institution). He is a recipient of the Canadian Institute of Public Administration's J.E. Hodgetts award for outstanding scholarly contribution to Canadian Public Policy.

Wednesday, March 27: Siting Processes

Michael Kraft, professor of Public and Environmental Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Dr. Kraft's expertise is in American public policy with an emphasis on environmental issues. He has written extensively on environmental policy, policy and process for siting a high-level nuclear waste repository in the United States, and citizens' views of repository siting. He has served as a consultant with United States and Canadian government agencies.

Thursday, March 28: Transportation Considerations

Glen Case, senior project specialist with SENES Consultants Limited and Manager of their Port Hope, Ontario office. He has over 20 years of practical experience in the measurement, assessment and clean-up of water, soil and low-level radioactive contaminants. He has conducted and directed numerous site investigations and based on the results of these investigations has designed and implemented effective remedial action programs.

With respect to low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) cleanup and management, Mr. Case has been involved in the Port Hope Area radioactive waste situation since 1976. Within the Port Hope area are an estimated 1.1 million cubic metres of LLRW that have arisen during a 56 year period of radium and uranium refining activities. During 1976 to 1981, Mr. Case was field engineer for the Port Hope Remedial Action Program. As part of this program approximately 100,000 cubic metres of radioactively contaminated soil and debris were removed from the community and safely transported some 400 kilometres to a waste management site located at Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories. Most recently Mr. Case was retained by the Federal Siting

Task Force on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management to assist in the characterization of the various wastes types, in the development of clean-up criteria for the Port Hope Area waste sites and in the assessment of transportation options to determine a preferred mode and route for transporting the wastes from the Port Hope Area to the volunteer disposal site community of Deep River, Ontario, a distance of approximately 400 kilometres.

Friday, March 29:

Implementing a Waste Management Plan: Implementing Agency
Organizational Structure

M. Paul Brown, professor at the School of Public Administration at Dalhousie University in Halifax. He has extensive consulting experience in organizational design and environmentally sensitive management principles and practice, both in Canada and abroad. He has written and spoken on administration issues, environmental industries, sustainable development and public participation.

Robert Paehlke, professor of Political Science and Environmental Studies at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario. He is the editor of Conservation and Environmentalism: An Encyclopedia (Garland 1995), and author of Environmentalism and the Future of Progressive Politics (Yale 1989) and many other books and articles. Dr. Paehlke founded the journal Alternatives: Perspectives on Society, Technology and the Environment, currently published at the University of Waterloo. He has done consulting on environmental policy for a number of government departments and private companies.

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News Release

PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR NUCLEAR FUEL WASTE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL CONCEPT ANNOUNCED

Ottawa – February 1, 1996 – Public hearings to review Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's proposed nuclear fuel waste management and disposal concept will be held in Toronto, Pickering, Thunder Bay, Sudbury and Chalk River from March through May, 1996. The federal environmental assessment panel reviewing the waste management and disposal concept today released a detailed schedule for the hearings, as well as the format and procedures to be followed (See attachments for details).

Phase I hearings will take place in Toronto and Pickering, March 11-15 and 25-29, 1996 and Thunder Bay, Sudbury and Chalk River from April 29 to May 2, 1996. This phase will focus on the presentation and round-table discussion of broad societal issues related to the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste. Discussion papers are available on request from the panel secretariat.

Phase II hearings, to take place in Toronto from June 10-14 and 17-21, 1996 will consist of technical sessions focusing on the long-term safety of the Atomic Energy of Canada Limited concept of geologic disposal from scientific and engineering viewpoints. More information concerning these will be published at a later date.

Anyone wishing to address the panel during phase I of the public hearings should register with the panel's secretariat no later than March 1, 1996. Participants who register after that date will only be added to the schedule if time permits.

Participants are encouraged to provide written submissions by March 1, 1996 for the first phase of the hearings. This will allow the panel and other participants the opportunity to review the information and prepare any questions.

Phase III hearings will consist of community visits in New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan where participants will have an opportunity to provide their final opinions and views on the safety and acceptability of the concept for disposal of nuclear fuel waste including any other issues relevant to the panel's mandate. The schedule will be announced later.

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Government
of Canada

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du Canada

Canada

To obtain discussion papers, please contact the Secretariat. To register for the hearings, please complete the attached coupon and return it to:

Ghislaine Kerry
Information Officer
Panel Secretariat
Nuclear Fuel Waste Management
and Disposal Concept Review
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0H3

Telephone: (819) 953-0179 (collect)
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Guy Riverin
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Telephone: (819) 997-2244 (collect)
Fax: (819) 994-1469

(Aussi disponible en français)

PHASE I SCHEDULE

Location: 3rd Floor Auditorium, 4900 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS	TOPICS DISCUSSED
Monday March 11, 1996	10:00 - 12:30 14:30 - 17:30	General/Opening Session
Tuesday March 12, 1996	13:00 - 17:00 Presentations 19:00 - 22:00 Round Table Discussions	Ethical Considerations including perspectives of aboriginal peoples
Wednesday March 13, 1996	09:00 - 12:00 Presentations 13:30 - 17:30 Round Table Discussions	Risk and uncertainty
Thursday March 14, 1996	13:00 - 17:00 Presentations 19:00 - 22:00 Round Table Discussions	Risk, Cost and Benefit
Friday March 15, 1996	09:00 - 12:00 Presentations 13:30 - 17:30 Round Table Discussions	Criteria for safety and acceptability

Location: Dan Beer Arena, 940 Dillingham Road
Pickering, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS	TOPICS DISCUSSED
Monday March 25, 1996	13:00 - 17:00 Presentations 19:00 - 22:00 Round Table Discussions	General/Opening Session
Tuesday March 26, 1996	09:00 - 12:00 Presentations 13:30 - 17:30 Round Table Discussions	Siting of facility and siting criteria

Location: 3rd Floor Auditorium, 4900 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS	TOPICS DISCUSSED
Wednesday March 27, 1996	09:00 - 12:00 Presentations 13:30 - 17:30 Round Table Discussions	Site Selection Process
Thursday March 28, 1996	13:00 - 17:00 Presentations 19:00 - 22:00 Round Table Discussions	Transportation
Friday March 29, 1996	09:00 - 12:00 Presentations 13:30 - 17:30 Round Table Discussions	Implementing and Management Agency

Location: Lakehead University
Bartley Residence, Conference Room "A"
955 Oliver Road
Thunder Bay, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS	TOPICS DISCUSSED
Monday April 29, 1996	09:00 - 12:00 Presentations 13:30 - 17:30 Round Table Discussions 19:00 - 22:00 Presentations	General discussions
Tuesday April 30, 1996	09:00 - 12:00 Round Table Discussions	Perspective of Aboriginal peoples

Location: University of Sudbury
Canisius Hall, Ramsey Lake Road
Sudbury, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS	TOPICS DISCUSSED
Wednesday May 1, 1996	09:00 - 12:00 Presentations 13:30 - 17:30 Round Table Discussions 19:00 - 22:00 Presentations	General Discussions

Location: Lyons Hall, 11 Kellett Street
Chalk River, Ontario

DATE	SESSIONS	TOPICS DISCUSSED
Thursday May 2, 1996	14:00 - 17:30 Presentations 19:00 - 22:00 Round Table Discussions	General discussions with emphasis on site selection process

REPLY COUPON / COUPON RÉPONSE

For Phase I, please return this coupon to the Panel Secretariat before March 1, 1996.

Pour la première phase, veuillez retourner ce coupon réponse au secrétariat de la commission au plus tard le 1^{er} mars 1996.

I will attend the following session:

J'ai l'intention de participer à la session suivante:

Date _____ Location/Lieu _____ Session/Séance _____

I wish to register to make a presentation at the following session:

Je désire m'inscrire pour prendre la parole à la séance suivante:

Date _____ Location/Lieu _____ Session/Séance _____

Name/Nom _____

Organization/Organisme _____

Address/Adresse _____

Postal Code/Code postal _____ Telephone/Téléphone _____

Correspondence in English _____ Correspondance en français _____

PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

NUCLEAR FUEL WASTE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL CONCEPT REVIEW

Introduction

A federal environmental assessment Panel, appointed in October 1989, is conducting an environmental review of the concept for geologic disposal of nuclear fuel wastes proposed by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL). The Panel's mandate also extends to the review of a broad range of nuclear fuel waste management issues, and the consideration of various approaches to the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste.

This document outlines procedures for public hearings and for round-table discussions. These hearings and discussions will provide an opportunity for individuals, organizations and government agencies to provide their views and opinions on all aspects of the Panel's mandate, and to present technical and scientific information on the safety and acceptability of AECL's concept. These views and opinions will assist the Panel in reaching informed and objective recommendations on the acceptability of the disposal concept, and on steps that must be taken to ensure the safe long-term management of nuclear fuel waste. Written submissions are also welcome, and will receive the same consideration as oral submissions presented in public hearings. The Panel's recommendations will be submitted to the Minister of the Environment for Canada, and to the Minister of Natural Resources. As the Panel's recommendations will not have legal force but will be advisory, the hearings will not be governed by the strict rules of procedure and evidence required by a court.

The public hearings have been divided into three phases. Phase I provides for discussion of broad societal issues on the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste through presentations and round-table discussions. In Phase I hearings, the first half of each day will be dedicated to hearing presentations by registered participants in the traditional format of hearings. The second half will be dedicated to discussion in a round-table format, where the active participation of the interested public is particularly sought. Phase II focuses on the safety of the AECL concept of geologic disposal of nuclear fuel waste from scientific, technical and engineering viewpoints. Phase III addresses both the safety and the acceptability of the AECL concept in both the technical and the social senses.

A detailed schedule of dates, locations and topics to be discussed during Phase I is attached.

2. General Principles

The public hearings will be conducted in a non-judicial but structured manner.

- 2.1** All information presented to the Panel will be made available to the public by placing it on the public file. The public file will be maintained by the Panel Secretariat at the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA), 13th Floor, Fontaine Building, 200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd., Hull. Copies of submitted information may be obtained on request. A list of material contained in the public file is available in community libraries, and will be updated regularly.

- 2.2 All written material to be considered by the Panel for the purposes of this review must be submitted to the Panel before the last day of the public hearings.
- 2.3 Transcripts will be made of all public hearings and round-table discussions. At the close of each Phase of the hearings, copies of the transcripts will be made available on request as soon as possible before subsequent phases of the hearings. Copies will also be placed in community libraries, which have accepted the documentation for this review to date. A list is attached.
- 2.4 The proponent and all review participants are expected to present their views and questions in a tone and manner which are courteous to and respectful of others, and to restrict their interventions to issues within the mandate of the review. Clarity and brevity will be encouraged. Cross-examination will not be permitted.
- 2.5 The Panel chairperson has the discretion to modify or waive a specific procedure contained in Sections 3 and 4 of this document if there is evidence that the objectives of the hearings can be achieved better by taking a different approach. The Chairperson must explain publicly the reasons for varying the procedure.

3. Round-table Discussions

The purpose of the round-table discussions is to provide a setting and process that encourages the widest possible participation, as well as an open exchange of ideas and opinions.

- 3.1 Formal procedures will be minimized in favour of an informal exchange of information and opinion.
- 3.2 The round-tables will proceed in the following manner:
- Each round-table will address a specific broad societal issue on the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste.
 - All participants including the Panel members will actively participate in the round-table discussions.
 - Transcripts of the discussions will be made available as soon as possible.

4. Public Hearings

Persons may present their views or information orally, or in written form. The following guidelines are provided for persons who may wish to make oral presentations during the hearings:

Phase I - Broad societal issues (March/April 1996)

One member of the Panel will make a short presentation at the opening of each session to explain the scope of that day's session, and the particular areas of concern to be addressed.

Participants who have registered will be next to address the Panel. Each participant's presentation may be followed by a short question and answer period. Presentations may be issue-specific, or may address any or all issues being considered for Phase I.

If time remains, those who have not registered will have the opportunity to address the Panel.

Phase II - Technical sessions on AECL's concept for geologic disposal (June 1996)

The proponent will be entitled to make a detailed presentation at the opening of each session. The proponent's presentation will focus on the issue designated for that particular session. Each presentation by the proponent will be followed by a question and answer period.

Participants who have registered will be next to address the Panel. Each participant's presentation may be followed by a short question and answer period.

If time remains, those who have not registered will have the opportunity to address the Panel.

Phase III - Community sessions (Autumn 1996)

The proponent will make a short presentation on the concept of geologic disposal of nuclear fuel waste at the beginning of each community session to explain the scope of the proposed project. Each presentation by the proponent will be followed by a short question and answer period.

Participants who have registered will be next to address the Panel. Each participant's presentation may be followed by a short question and answer period.

If time remains, those who have not registered will have the opportunity to address the Panel.

4.1

Anyone wishing to make a presentation at the public hearings is encouraged to register with the Panel Secretariat not less than 10 days before the beginning of the appropriate Phase of the hearings. Any person providing timely notice will be included on a list of registered participants and every effort will be made to schedule their presentation to the participant's preference. The need for projection aids should be made at this time.

- 4.2 A schedule listing the order of participants will be available at the beginning of each session.
- 4.3 Persons who wish to make a presentation at any session and who have not pre-registered may register prior to the start of a session or during intermission. However, the opportunity to present will depend upon the time remaining after the pre-registered participants have been heard.
- 4.4 At the time of registering, participants are asked to indicate the official language of their presentation and the session they wish to attend, to enable translation capabilities to be arranged where possible.
- 4.5 Persons registered to make presentations are encouraged to file copies of the texts or notes from which they plan to speak with the panel secretariat 10 days before the start of the appropriate phase of the public hearings or bring a minimum of 20 copies of the texts with them to the public hearings. Copies of written submissions received during the hearings will not be available for distribution at the public hearings, but a copy will be placed on the public file.
- 4.6 Any oral presentation in relation to written material, including journal articles, studies, and reports should be limited to highlighting essential features of the material and responding to questions on it.
- 4.7 The Chairperson may impose time limits (normally to not exceed twenty minutes) for presentation, to ensure that all registered participants have an equal opportunity to participate. If more than one individual participates in a particular presentation, the collective presentation must take place within the time allotted.
- 4.8 Each presentation may be followed by a short question period to obtain further information or explanation, or to establish authenticity of information relevant to the presentation.
- 4.9 The ordering of questioning will be determined by the chairperson, but normally will start with members of the Panel, followed by the proponent, the public, and government agencies.
- 4.10 All questions are to be directed through the chairperson who will invite the appropriate participant(s) to respond.
- 4.11 If a participant or the proponent is unable to answer a question, the response may be submitted to the Panel at a later date, but before the end of the public hearings.
- 4.12 The chairperson may limit or exclude questions or comments which are outside the mandate of the Panel, or which are needlessly repetitive, irrelevant, or immaterial.

5. Written Submissions

- 5.1 Written submissions, or videotapes, will also be accepted from participants who choose not to appear before the Panel. These submissions should be submitted to the panel's secretariat at least 10 days before the start of the appropriate phase of the public hearings. This allows the Panel and other review participants the opportunity to review the information.
- 5.2 Text may be submitted in typewritten or handwritten form or in electronic format.
- 5.3 All submissions will become part of the public file; therefore, no confidential material should be included.

Those requiring information or interested in making written submissions or oral presentations, please contact:

Ghislaine Kerry
Information Officer
Panel Secretariat
Nuclear Fuel Waste Management
and Disposal Concept Review
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0H3

Telephone: (819) 953-0179 (collect)
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Internet: Kerryg@fox.nstn.ca

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and Disposal Concept Review
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0H3

Telephone: (819) 997-2244 (collect)
Fax: (819) 994-1469

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NUCLEAR FUEL WASTE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL REVIEW

PUBLIC HEARINGS - PHASE I

The Nuclear Fuel Waste Management Panel reviewing Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's (AECL) concept for geologic disposal of nuclear fuel waste along with a broad range of nuclear fuel waste management issues, has adopted a three-phased approach to public hearings (Information releases August 2, 1994 and December 12, 1995). **Phase I** provides for the presentation and round-table discussion of issues related to a broad societal perspective on various approaches to the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste. The Panel is seeking the active participation of the interested public in this initial phase in order to gain a better understanding of the social context in which to place the more specific discussions in Phase II and III hearings which follow. The information obtained through presentation and discussion in this phase could be carried into the next phases, and provide context for subsequent hearings. **Phase II** focuses on the long-term safety of the AECL concept from scientific, technical and engineering viewpoints within the broader perspective established in Phase I. Phase II is composed largely of public hearing sessions devoted to specific technical issues. **Phase III** addresses both the safety and the acceptability of AECL's concept, and is composed of general public hearing sessions and sessions devoted to specific topics. These hearings will be held in various communities. Any subject matter discussed during Phase I and II public hearings and within the Panel's terms of reference may be raised during Phase III hearings. An international perspective on the long-term management and disposal of nuclear fuel waste will also be addressed at these hearings.

Phase I - Broad Societal Issues

The Panel, as a result of its review, will make recommendations to assist the governments of Canada and Ontario in reaching decisions on the steps that must be taken to ensure safe long-term management of nuclear fuel waste in Canada as well as on the acceptability of AECL's concept of geologic disposal. In order to make these recommendations, the Panel must include in its review (in accordance with its terms of reference) the examination of the criteria by which safety and acceptability of a concept for long-term waste management and disposal should be evaluated, the consideration of a broad range of nuclear waste management issues, and the consideration of various approaches to the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste.

Therefore, Phase I presentations and discussions are intended to assist the Panel:

- 1) to **examine and develop criteria** by which safety and acceptability should be evaluated; and
- 2) to develop an understanding of the **broad societal issues** (ethical, social, economic, risk-related, health-related, etc.) related to long-term management of nuclear fuel waste.

The presentations and discussions in Phase I on broad societal issues and on criteria for safety and acceptability should have the consideration of various approaches to long-term management of nuclear fuel waste as a context.

A detailed list of times, locations and issues for discussion for the three weeks of Phase I hearings is attached, together with a brief description of the purpose of each session. The range of issues for discussion during Phase I hearings include: consideration of ethics, the perspective of Aboriginal Peoples, risks, costs and benefits, issues relating to the siting of a facility, siting criteria, site selection processes, and types and responsibilities of implementing and management organizations.

Brief issue papers on each of the issues are being prepared by the Panel Secretariat and will be available on request. These papers have been prepared only to stimulate and encourage discussion, and are not meant to be definitive in nature.

Week 1 March 11-15, 1996 Toronto

Monday, March 11, 1996 - Background Information

The purpose of this session is to provide information on the various approaches to the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste and on the current criteria for safety and acceptability for long-term management and disposal of that waste.

These approaches include: continued storage (wet and dry) at present facilities; long-term storage (hundreds of years) on surface at present facilities or at a dedicated central facility with a capability for continuing intervention in the form of monitoring, retrieval and remedial action; underground storage with the possibility of transition to permanent disposal; permanent geologic disposal, both land-based and ocean-based; transmutation of nuclear fuel waste; and the impact of recycling and other processes on the volume of the waste.

The advantages and disadvantages of each of the various approaches to long-term management will be explored with respect to several aspects including: acceptability, health and safety including the potential for accidents, practicality, risk, commitment of societal resources, security and the potential for acts of terrorism and sabotage or accidental breaches of security, availability of future options (i.e., flexibility) including retrievability and reversibility of decisions, and cost.

Current criteria and guidelines for the safety and acceptability of long-term management and disposal of nuclear fuel waste will be examined, and a comparison made with the criteria for the management of wastes from other energy and industrial sources.

Information on these approaches and the criteria will be presented by government departments and agencies.

General discussions in this session could focus on the following aspects:

- the advantages and disadvantages of the various approaches to long-term management, and
- the strengths and weaknesses of the current criteria for the safety and acceptability of long-term management.

For each session it is expected that the public, non-government organizations, the academic community, government agencies and departments, and experts will speak on each issues. It is also expected that these discussions on broad societal issues should include, where possible, a comparative evaluation of the various approaches to long-term management of nuclear fuel waste.

Tuesday, March 12, 1996 - Ethical Considerations

In examining the future steps to be taken with respect to the management of nuclear waste, the Panel was directed to take into consideration the degree to which the present generation should relieve future generations of the burden of looking after these wastes. The purpose of this session, therefore, is to explore the important ethical considerations in the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste. It will also consider the responsibilities of those who have benefited from nuclear power and of those who might be impacted by a nuclear waste management facility. In particular, the perspective of Aboriginal Peoples on long-term management and on potential impacts of a facility will be investigated.

As ethics can be defined as a set of rules or principles by which people in general ought to conduct themselves in relation to other people, ethical considerations represent a critical and dominating issue for discussion in Phase I hearings.

Wednesday, March 13, 1996 - Risk and Uncertainty

Risk analysis and assessment attempt to provide rational, scientific estimates of health and environmental risks, to identify sources of uncertainty inherent in scientific data, and to determine the appropriate degree of control (i.e. the allocation of society's resources) required to manage risk effectively. However, the way in which the public and others may view risk may not be taken completely into account because of the objective and quantitative nature of risk analysis and assessment. The objective of this session is to examine the concept of risk, how it is assessed and the importance and limitations of this assessment, and the uncertainties associated with risk. How decisions involving risk are made in light of uncertainties and different perceptions of the same risk will also be discussed. During the round-table portion of this session, the following topics are suggested for discussion:

- Risk and uncertainty and the perception of risk and uncertainty associated with each of the various approaches to long-term management.

- How should an acceptable risk be defined?
- What is required to address the issue of safety for long-term management?
- What are the guiding principles in making decisions involving risk and uncertainty?

Thursday, March 14, 1996 - Risk, Cost and Benefit

In terms of what has been discussed with respect to risk and uncertainty at the previous day's session, the purpose of this session is to explore how a fair allocation of risks, costs and benefits can be achieved. Issues to be examined include: the cost to society of an unfair or unbalanced allocation of resources, the reliability of cost estimates, the security of funds, equity compensation for host and affected communities, mitigation costs, remediation costs where mitigation cannot be done, and the cost of local/regional management committees. During the round-table portion of this session, the following topic for discussion is suggested:

- What are suitable guiding principles that should be considered for a fair and efficient allocation of funds and resources to reduce or manage risk and to compensate potential host and affected communities?

Friday, March 15, 1996 - Criteria for Safety and Acceptability

Taking into account the broad societal issues discussed in previous sessions, the purpose of this session is to discuss the possible criteria by which the safety and acceptability of a concept for long-term management and disposal of nuclear fuel wastes should be evaluated, and to explore what additional steps could be taken to ensure safe and acceptable long-term management. Therefore, round-table discussion should focus on the important considerations that have emerged to assist in the development of criteria for safe and acceptable long-term management of nuclear fuel waste.

Week 2 March 25-29, 1996 Pickering and Toronto

The purpose of the sessions during the second week of Phase I hearings is to provide some practical application of the more theoretical discussions on broad societal issues regarding long-term management of nuclear fuel waste held in week 1. It is hoped that there will be some convergence of opinion on these issues among the participants in order to assist the Panel in making future recommendations on the AECL concept and on steps to be taken to ensure safe long-term management of nuclear fuel waste. The issues to be addressed during this week include siting and siting criteria, site selection processes, transportation, and the mandate, responsibilities and composition of an implementation and management organization.

Monday, March 25, 1996 - Background Information

This first session will include an overview of the discussions held during the first week of Phase I hearings, particularly those aspects that will assist in discussion of the issues during the remainder of the second week. The experiences and lessons learned from the siting and operation (including transportation) of large technologically-complex facilities in Canada that involve the production and treatment of wastes will be examined. Possible case studies include: uranium mining; siting of a nuclear generating station; hazardous waste treatment facilities such as Swan Hills in Alberta, or the Manitoba facility; and the low-level nuclear waste siting task force in Ontario.

The round-table discussions should focus on what has been learned from the above experiences that could assist in making recommendations on long-term management of nuclear fuel waste, particularly:

- Positive and negative socio-economic and environmental impacts
- Siting criteria
- Site selection processes
- Responsibilities and organizational structure of an implementing and management agency.

Tuesday, March 26, 1996 - Siting of a Facility and Siting Criteria

The purpose of this session is to examine the key considerations in the siting of large technologically-complex facilities in different types of locations (e.g. remote, northern, aboriginal, developed, etc), and for criteria in selecting or rejecting a site. It will also examine the costs and benefits to potential communities hosting a facility or situated along transportation corridors leading to a facility, including the potential social, economic and potential communities environmental implications of a facility.

During the round-table portion of this session, the following topics are suggested for discussion:

- What are the guiding principles for determining the selection or rejection of candidate sites?
- What are the important safety considerations in selecting a site?
- What are the important technical, social, economic and cultural considerations in selecting a site?

Wednesday, March 27, 1996 - Site Selection Processes

The purpose of this session is to investigate site selection processes and to determine the important principles, such as volunteerism, shared decision-making, shared responsibility, openness and fairness, that should be considered to ensure that the process is acceptable and could ultimately lead to safe and acceptable long-term management of nuclear fuel waste. It will also examine how these principles could be translated into concrete actions to give them reality.

During the round-table portion of this session, the following topics are suggested for discussion:

- What are the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches to site selection?
- How should the details of the process be decided upon?
- Who would be selected to participate substantively in decision-making, and how?
- Who would decide on what is a fair allocation of risks, benefits and costs, and how?
- What procedures should be adopted for site selection if no community opts voluntarily to act as a host site?

Thursday, March 28, 1996 - Transportation

The purpose of this session is to examine the important factors relevant to the transportation waste products and hazardous goods. These factors will include: the types of information needed to assess potentially safe and acceptable transportation routes and transportation methods; consideration of safety criteria; and decision-making processes to ensure that all stake-holders are informed, consulted and involved with respect to the selection and operation of transportation systems.

During the round-table portion of this session, the following topics are suggested for discussion:

- What are the possible risks associated with the transportation of hazardous goods, and how are these risks distributed along transport routes?
- How can communities located along potential transport routes be involved in the development and operation of a transport system?

Friday, March 29, 1996 - Implementing and Management Organization

The purpose of the session is to explore the mandate, characteristics, composition and organizational structure of an implementing and management organization charged with the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste in the event that governments were to approve the concept of a deep rock repository, or indeed another form of long-term management.

During the round-table portion of this session, the following topics are suggested for discussion:

- What are the possible organizational structures that can be considered for an implementing organization?
- What relationships should an implementing agency have with existing organizations involved with nuclear fuel waste?
- What responsibilities should an implementing organization have, and how should it be made accountable?
- How should an implementing organization be financed?
- What decision-making process should an implementing organization adopt, and how should the public be involved?

Week 3 April 29-May 2, 1996 Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Chalk River

This third week of Phase I hearings will be spent visiting the communities of Thunder Bay, Sudbury and Chalk River in Ontario. The Panel wishes to seek the important perspectives of members of these communities, particularly those members who were unable to attend sessions held during weeks 1 and 2, on the broad societal issues and on the criteria for safety and acceptability as they relate to long-term management and disposal of nuclear fuel waste. As in weeks 1 and 2, the context of these sessions will be the various approaches to long-term management of nuclear fuel waste and will not be confined exclusively to AECL's concept of geologic disposal.

Monday, April 29, 1996 - Thunder Bay - General discussions including the possible social economic and environmental implications of a nuclear fuel waste management facility.

Tuesday, April 30, 1996 - Thunder Bay - Perspectives of Aboriginal Peoples

The purpose of this session is to explore the particular interests and concerns of Aboriginal Peoples, including aboriginal women, with respect to the possible location of a facility for the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste. The subjects to be examined will include: the nature of the Aboriginal Peoples' perspectives on the land and the environment, and the spiritual connection with the lands, Crown lands under federal jurisdiction which are currently under dispute, the various methods of consultation and decision-making used by aboriginal communities, and the involvement in decision-making of Aboriginal Peoples who may be impacted by such a facility, and the social, economic and environmental implications of a nuclear fuel waste management facility.

Wednesday, May 1, 1996 - Sudbury - General discussions including the possible social economic and environmental implications of a nuclear fuel waste management facility.

Thursday, May 2, 1996 - Chalk River - General discussions, including the possible social economic and environmental implications of a nuclear fuel waste management facility, and, particularly, discussions on site selection processes.

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PANEL ANNOUNCES PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR NUCLEAR FUEL WASTE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL CONCEPT

OTTAWA - December 12, 1995 - The environmental assessment panel reviewing Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's nuclear fuel waste management and disposal concept will hold public hearings beginning March 11, 1996.

These hearings will consist of three phases and are designed to increase understanding of complex social and scientific issues, to co-ordinate presentations for the benefit of all participants, and to ensure a more flexible and effective public hearing process (see Backgrounder). Phase I provides for discussion of broad societal issues on the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste. Phase II focuses on the safety of the AECL concept of geologic disposal of nuclear fuel waste from a scientific and engineering viewpoint. Phase III addresses the safety and acceptability of the AECL concept. Details on locations, and specific topics to be discussed in Phases I and II will be announced in January. The panel will also release hearing procedures at the same time.

The panel has concluded its review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted in October 1994 by AECL; the nine accompanying primary reference documents; and the 65 written submissions received from government departments and agencies, associations, non-governmental organizations and individuals that have commented on the EIS documentation. As well, the panel has reviewed the report of the Scientific Review Group (SRG), a body of 15 noted scientists appointed by the panel to examine the safety and acceptability of the disposal concept from a scientific and engineering viewpoint.

The panel has concluded that sufficient information is now or will be available from AECL and other sources in time to allow public hearings to begin in March. A number of significant shortcomings in the EIS have, however, been identified by reviewers through their written submissions. To assist in addressing these shortcomings, the panel has requested clarification and additional information from AECL as set forth in an attached letter.

The panel recognizes its obligation, as set out in its terms of reference, to present to governments in a timely fashion its best advice on the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste. The views of the public are required to assist the panel in meeting its obligation. Public hearings are an essential step in the review process to achieve this objective. They will provide opportunities for all participants to present their views and opinions on broad societal issues related to long-term management of nuclear fuel waste, as well as technical information on the environmental and socio-economic implications of the proposed concept for deep geologic disposal of nuclear fuel waste.

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Phase I of public hearings is designed to assist the panel in the following areas of its terms of reference, and issues papers will be made available before the start of this phase to help focus discussions:

- a) the criteria by which safety and acceptability of a concept for long-term management and disposal should be evaluated, taking into consideration the various approaches available for long-term management of nuclear fuel waste which is presently stored at reactor sites;
- b) the degree to which this generation should relieve future generations of the burden of caring for the waste;
- c) social, economic and environmental implications of a possible nuclear fuel waste management facility;
- d) the general criteria for site selection and a future site selection process; and
- e) the potential costs and benefits to potential host communities.

Specific to the above issues, a series of hearings consisting of presentations and round-table discussions will take place beginning in March, 1996. These hearings will address the issues in the panel's terms of reference which go beyond the generic concept for deep geologic disposal. Their purpose is to seek through dialogue better understanding of complex issues. Attendees are encouraged to participate in as many sessions as possible. Hearings will take place in Toronto and vicinity in the weeks of March 11-15 and March 25-29, 1996 and in smaller communities in the week of April 29-May 3, 1996. Transcripts will be distributed prior to the visits to the smaller communities.

Phase II of hearings will focus specifically on scientific and technical issues related to the safety of AECL's generic concept for deep geologic disposal of nuclear fuel waste, and will take place June 10-14 and June 17-21, 1996. Transcripts of all sessions will be made available and may help participants develop presentations for the next phase, should they so choose.

Technical sessions will be focused on specific topics:

- a) the multiple barrier system (technical sessions may be held on each barrier);
- b) the criteria and guidelines by which performance assessment of the concept is measured;
- c) the methods and techniques for performance assessment; and
- d) the methodology to characterize sites and the potential availability of sites in Canada.

Phase III hearings will be held over six weeks in the autumn of 1996 in a number of communities previously visited by the panel during the scoping phase of this review. While not precluding discussion on other issues that will be addressed in earlier phases, the panel will specifically hope to receive presentations on the following issues as they relate to AECL's concept:

- a) recommendations to assist governments in reaching decisions on the acceptability of the disposal concept; steps to be taken to ensure safe long-term management of nuclear fuel waste;
- b) criteria by which the safety and acceptability of a concept for long-term waste management and disposal should be evaluated;
- c) social, economic and environmental implications of a possible nuclear fuel waste management facility, including the impact of transportation of nuclear fuel waste;
- d) general criteria for site selection and on a future site selection process; and
- e) the costs and benefits to potential host communities.

Transcripts of all sessions will be made available.

The Nuclear Fuel Waste Management and Disposal Concept panel has been given a mandate to assist the governments of Canada and Ontario in reaching decisions on the safety and acceptability of a concept of deep geologic disposal of spent nuclear fuel from Candu reactors and on the steps that must be taken to ensure the safe long-term management of nuclear fuel waste in Canada. These public hearings and the opportunity they afford to learn the views of the public are a significant part of the panel's work.

For further information:

Guy Riverin, Executive Secretary
Nuclear Fuel Waste Management and
Disposal Concept Review
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
13th Floor, Fontaine Building
200 Sacre-Coeur Boulevard
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0H3

Telephone (collect): (819) 997-1000
FAX: (819) 994-1469

Jennifer Howell, Panel Manager
Nuclear Fuel Waste Management and
Disposal Concept Review
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
13th Floor, Fontaine Building
200 Sacre-Coeur Boulevard
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0H3

Telephone (collect): (819) 953-1653
FAX: (819) 994-1469

or

13th Floor, Fontaine Building
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0H3

13^e étage, Édifice Fontaine
Hull (Québec)
K1A 0H3

Tel: (819) 997-1000
Fax: (819) 994-1469

Tél : (819) 997-1000
Fax : (819) 994-1469

December 8, 1995

Dr. Colin J. Allan
General Manager
Physical and Environmental Sciences
AECL Research
Whiteshell Laboratories
Pinawa, Manitoba
R0E 1L0

Dear Dr. Allan:

The Environmental Assessment Panel reviewing the Nuclear Fuel Waste Management and Disposal Concept has concluded its review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) in October 1994, the supporting primary reference documents released by AECL and Ontario Hydro, and the 65 written submissions received from government departments and agencies, professional associations, non-governmental organizations and individuals that have reviewed the EIS documentation. As well, the Panel has reviewed the report of the Scientific Review Group (SRG) appointed by the Panel to examine the safety and acceptability of the disposal concept from a scientific and engineering viewpoint.

Many of these submissions and the SRG report identify significant shortcomings in the AECL concept. Nevertheless, the Panel has concluded that, subject to the considerations set out in this letter, sufficient information is now or will be available in time to allow the start of the public hearing phase of this environmental review.

The Panel has elected to have a phased approach to these hearings. Phase I, scheduled to begin March 11, 1996, will address the broad societal issues with respect to long-term management of nuclear fuel waste which are included in the Panel's terms of reference and which formed part of the EIS Guidelines issued in March, 1992. Phase II hearings, to take place over two weeks, beginning June 10, 1996, will focus on the long-term safety of AECL's generic concept of geologic disposal from scientific, technical and engineering viewpoints. Phase III hearings will be comprised largely of general sessions and will focus on the safety and acceptability of the AECL concept. Phase III hearings are scheduled to start in the autumn of 1996, and will run for six weeks.

Although some of the issues to be addressed in Phase I of the public hearings do not specifically form part of AECL's and Ontario Hydro's original mandate from governments, the Panel expects that AECL and Ontario Hydro will be represented at all sessions and encourages their fullest participation. To that end, the Panel requests that AECL and Ontario Hydro be prepared to discuss societal issues including, but not restricted to, obligations to future generations, risk, site selection criteria and processes, and functions and responsibilities of implementation organizations. The Panel would also like your views on possible methods for public involvement in the various approaches to the management of nuclear fuel waste, and to hear from you about relevant experiences. In order to prepare for these discussions, the Panel suggests that AECL and Ontario Hydro review the written submissions to the Panel that have provided comment on these societal issues.

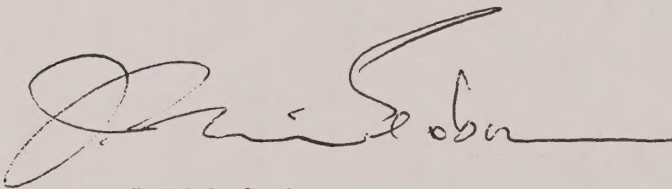
Among other issues, the Panel has been asked by governments to make recommendations that will assist in decisions on the safety of AECL's generic concept of permanent geologic disposal. This issue derives directly from AECL's original mandate from governments and has formed the basis of your research over many years. Many submissions from review participants have been critical of how the issue of long-term safety of the concept has been addressed in the EIS. In order to be able to respond to governments on this matter in a satisfactory way, the Panel requests that AECL provide further clarification and additional information which will assist the Panel and review participants in evaluating the safety of the concept. AECL should provide any relevant information at its disposal that has not already been presented in the EIS documentation, and should respond in writing to issues related to the long-term safety of the AECL concept that have been raised in the SRG report and in the submissions of review participants, government agencies and professional associations.

The areas where additional information could assist in this evaluation include: alternative disposal container materials, container designs, and container emplacement layouts; the role of backfill as a barrier; existing drill core data to estimate the availability of potentially acceptable sites; ranked selection and rejection criteria for suitable site characterization; the relevance of recharge zones and dense saline groundwater for disposal vault location; the relevance of the timing of resaturation by groundwater of the disposal vault for the effectiveness of the multiple barrier system; and alternative disposal vault layouts. This information should be submitted to the Panel by May 10, 1996, approximately one month before Phase II of the hearings is scheduled to begin.

The Panel has received numerous complaints from review participants on the difficulty in finding where in the EIS specific issues raised in the Guidelines have been addressed. Therefore, the Panel requests that AECL provide a detailed linkage between the Guidelines and the EIS and supporting primary reference documents. This linkage should provide reviewers with the location in the document(s) (by section, by page number and, if necessary, by paragraph) where a Guidelines issue has been addressed. This information should also be submitted to the Panel by May 10, 1996.

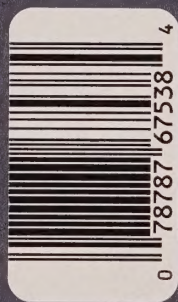
The Panel would appreciate an early reply to confirm that these requests can be met within the time requested.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Blair Seaborn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

J. Blair Seaborn
Chairman
Nuclear Fuel Waste Management and Disposal Concept Review

cc. J. Reid Morden, President and Chief Executive Officer, AECL



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